

# Nancy Johnson



Fifth District, Connecticut

[www.house.gov/nancyjohnson](http://www.house.gov/nancyjohnson)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 18, 2004

**Contact:** Brian Schubert

(202) 225-4476

## Johnson Action Keeps Torrington Community Health Center Afloat

*Reclassification Breathes New Life, More Funds into Center*

TORRINGTON, CT – Congresswoman Nancy Johnson announced today that the Community Health and Wellness Center of Greater Torrington has won federal recognition, opening the door to higher federal and state payments and securing its future for those in need of quality, affordable health care.

Executive Director Kathy Grimaud said without the federal recognition, the center's financial future was in jeopardy. She said that with Johnson's "critical" help, the center was reclassified as a "federally-qualified health center," making higher federal and state reimbursements available as well as new federal grant opportunities.

Recognizing the need for fairer reimbursements to keep the center afloat, Johnson appealed to the federal government and the Department of Health and Human Services to appropriately classify the Torrington facility. The federal government informed Johnson of its reclassification decision today.

**"This is a big victory for northwestern Connecticut," Johnson said. "Kathy, Charlotte Hungerford, and a core group of dedicated people just helped me keep pushing. We went to Boston to meet with regional leaders and just didn't take no for an answer. We pushed very hard for those in need because the Torrington center provides truly crucial health care services to the community. The increased financial support will ensure that everyone in northwestern Connecticut has access to the quality, affordable health care they deserve."**

The center is a crucial health safety net provider in northwestern Connecticut, caring for 1,200 uninsured and low-income residents in the broad area. The next nearest community health center is in Waterbury.

**"Nancy has been our champion. She has been there since our inception. Her assistance was critical in achieving this milestone for the community and those we serve," Grimaud said. "This recognition helps to financially stabilize the health center, allowing it to fulfil its mission to provide quality, compassionate, professional health care that is affordable, easily accessible and without discrimination to all residents of northwestern Connecticut."**

**“Additional recognition goes the staff and the Board of Directors for their continuing hard work and commitment. I’d also like to recognize the past and ongoing support of Charlotte Hungerford hospital and their contribution to our programs,” Grimaud added.**

**###**